

Missouri House of Representatives

Blaine Luetkemeyer

State Representative
District 115
Minority Caucus Chairman

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Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20544

**Re: EchoStar Communications & Hughes Electronics Merger
Docket # 01-348**

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to encourage your favorable consideration of the pending merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics, which is before the Department of Justice. While there are some who argue that the merger will inhibit competition, I believe that the new company will pave the way for greater competition with the cable companies who control about 80% of the pay television households in the United States.

The new company will also be able to reach additional markets because of the programming and administrative efficiencies realized by the proposed merger. Rural areas, such as my legislative district, many times do not have access to high speed Internet service. Direct broadcast satellite TV offered by the newly merged company will be able to provide interactive educational programs in many schools. This is just another example of permitting a viable competitor to deliver more program choices and improved services.

I encourage you to review the facts and hope that you can support the merger.

Best regards,

Blaine Luetkemeyer
115th District

(transcription – original on file; call (816) 561-7555)